Timeline for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Action

National Marine
Fisheries Service
(NMFS) receives several
petitions from various
organizations to list
wild, native Puget
Sound Chinook salmon
populations for
protection under the
ESA. A lawsuit is filed
November 6, 1997
calling for protection
under the ESA for all
Puget Sound Chinook
salmon populations.

February 26, 1998: NMFS files proposed rule designating "threatened" status for wild, native Puget Sound Chinook salmon. February 26, 1999: NMFS makes final determination of Puget Sound Chinook salmon status or requests a six-month extension to collect more scientific data. If a final determination is made to list Chinook as threatened, any action that results in "take" of the species may lead to civil or criminal penalties.

August 26, 1999: NMFS makes final determination (If there is an extension)

Salmon Recovery Plan developed and adopted.

1985 to 1998

1 9 9 8

1999

2 0 0 0

Conference procedure: During the 12 to 18 month review period after the proposal, all federal agencies must ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to harm Chinook salmon or their habitat. This includes private as well as local public projects that require a federal permit, receive federal funding or are carried out to fulfill federal mandate. The federal agencies responsible for funding or permitting these actions review them with NMFS.

Consultation procedure: If NMFS decides to list Chinook as threatened, all actions. public or private, that might harm Chinook salmon or their habitat, are subject to review by NMFS. If NMFS finds that an action will "take" or harm Chinook salmon or their habitat, it must propose "reasonable and prudent" alternatives for minimizing or mitigating the damaging effects of the activity; if the proponent rejects these alternatives, the action cannot proceed.

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